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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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3 The method of processing air prior to
4 separation of such air into gaseous components, the
5 steps that include: first compressing a stream of air
6 and cooling the compressed air, to enable water
7 separation and removal from the stream, to provide a
8 dry stream of air; then further compressing the dry air
9 stream and cooling the compressed dry air stream to
10 enable removal of contained remanent water; then
11 expanding the cooled air stream in an expansion stage
12 which extracts work from the expanding stream; then
13 passing the expanded air stream to a separator
14 operating to remove water from the stream, thereby
15 producing dry air passed to a component gas separation
16 stage or stages.

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